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7 September 1971

**MEMORANDUM FOR: Assistant Deputy Director for Intel-
ligence**

: Deputy Director for Intelligence

SUBJECT : Security

1. The purpose of this memorandum is merely to advise you about the status of the special Agency Security Committee established several weeks ago in the aftermath of the Pentagon Papers and related security concerns. The Committee's mission is to advise the Director of Security so that he can represent Agency views and concerns in current inter-Agency committees working on new security approaches. The Director of Security also felt the need to consult with other Agency officers to obtain reactions to new initiatives that he may wish to surface at a time when there are interesting cross currents involved in the security field--on the one hand there is a desire to tighten up and, on the other, to declassify and release.

2. You will recall that I was appointed the Intelligence Directorate's representative on this Committee.

3. The Committee has been called into session on three or four occasions, all of them having to do with current inter-agency work involved in the drafting of a new Executive Order covering various security matters, with emphasis on classification and declassification criteria and procedures. The Committee is headed by an Assistant Attorney General Rahnquist and has a great deal of clout in that its work is being conducted with maximum support (and pressure) from the White House. There is an early deadline for completion of the new Executive Order. As the drafting has proceeded, we

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Agency officers have been assembled in the Office of Security to comment on the Director of Security's proposed reactions to the state of the draft.

4. So far there have been no major problems but there are some interesting sidelights:

a. There is fairly general agreement that the Executive Order should call for the establishment of a super committee to meet periodically to assess progress and evaluate performance. The Chairman, it is generally agreed, will be designated by the President and will be a member of either the President's Staff or at least of the Executive Department. Interestingly, the White House member of the Committee has been arguing strongly (and largely alone) that such a Committee include not only representatives of government but outsiders as well.

b. Information related to "intelligence sources and methods" is among categories not subject to automatic downgrading, but there is a body of opinion within the Committee that even information of this kind should be automatically downgraded after 30 years from its origin. This opinion is, of course, being contested.

c. Eventual implementation of the Executive Order's provisions will present some difficulties to the Agency, I think. Among other things, we will have to be a bit more bureaucratic and systematic in determining just who is authorized to classify documents and why. We may also have to set up some kind of control procedures for Secret level information, somewhat like those that exist for Top Secret. Last but by no means least is that, while we are not likely to have to downgrade intelligence information automatically, we will probably have to set up some kind of procedure which will call for the review of material to determine whether or not it can be declassified. All of these, particularly the latter, will be costly and somewhat difficult to do. Shortcuts may be found, but it seems clear that we are heading towards some different dimensions.

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Deputy Director of Current Intelligence

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